

~~SECRET~~

b3 ~~SECRET~~ 14

OUTGOING

FRP:

IMMEDIATE

STAFF

b3 [REDACTED]

b3 [REDACTED]

PAGE 001
TOT: 020357Z AUG 88

[REDACTED] b3

b1
b3
BRIEF 020354Z
TO: IMMEDIATE [REDACTED] ROUTINE MEA BRIEF.

[REDACTED] b3

b3 [REDACTED]

SUBJECT: MIDDLE EAST BRIEF [REDACTED] FOR 2 AUGUST 1988.

FROM: DDI/O/CPAS.

ITEM

- 1. SYRIA: HEIGHTENED SECURITY CONCERNS IN LEBANON
- 2. INTERNATIONAL: OVERDUE PAYMENTS TO IMF GROWING
- 3. SOMALIA: MILITARY DISARRAY INCREASING
- 4. IN BRIEF

1. SYRIA: HEIGHTENED SECURITY CONCERNS IN LEBANON

DAMASCUS IS CONCERNED THAT, AS THE WAR IN THE PERSIAN GULF WINDS DOWN, IRAQ AND IRAN WILL LEND INCREASING SUPPORT TO THEIR PROXIES IN LEBANON, ADDING TO SYRIAN SECURITY CONCERNS THERE AND AT HOME. [REDACTED] b3

THE SYRIANS ARE WORRIED THAT IRAQ WILL ENCOURAGE ITS ALLY, THE CHRISTIAN LEBANESE FORCES, TO CONDUCT OPERATIONS AGAINST SYRIAN TARGETS AND THAT THE PRO-IRANIAN HIZBALLAH MAY INCREASE ITS ANTI-SYRIAN HARASSMENT [REDACTED] b3

[REDACTED]

~~SECRET~~

Approved for Release
Date JUN 1999

317

OUTGOING MESSAGE

OUTGOING MESSAGE

OUTGOING MESSAGE

~~SECRET~~

PAGE 002
TOT: 020357Z AUG 88

b3 [REDACTED] b3
[REDACTED] b1
[REDACTED] b3
COMMENT: THE SYRIANS ARE CHIEFLY ALARMED THAT IRAQ WILL PUNISH SYRIA FOR AIDING IRAN ONCE THE WAR ENDS. DAMASCUS HAS LONG BEEN CONCERNED ABOUT IRAQI AID FOR THE MUSLIM BROTHERHOOD AND OTHER INTERNAL DISSIDENTS, BUT THESE GROUPS ARE WEAK AND HAVE LITTLE ORGANIZED SUPPORT WITHIN SYRIA. ANTI-SYRIAN GROUPS IN LEBANON, ON THE OTHER HAND, COULD DAMAGE SYRIAN INTERESTS THERE AS WELL AS SPONSOR ATTACKS INSIDE SYRIA. [REDACTED] b3

THE LEBANESE FORCES PROBABLY WILL AVOID SIGNIFICANTLY INTENSIFYING ANTI-SYRIAN ATTACKS UNTIL AFTER THE LEBANESE PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION, WHICH IS TO BE HELD BEFORE 23 SEPTEMBER, UNLESS SYRIA BACKS A STRONGLY ANTI-CHRISTIAN CANDIDATE. IRAQ WILL CONTINUE TO PROVIDE LOW-LEVEL SUPPORT--MOSTLY ARMS AND AMMUNITION--TO THE LEBANESE FORCES, BUT BAGHDAD HAS LIMITED ABILITY TO INFLUENCE LEBANESE DEVELOPMENTS. THE IRANIAN-SUPPORTED HIZBALLAH, HOWEVER, MIGHT BECOME MORE AGGRESSIVE IN LEBANON TO COUNTER RUMORS THAT ITS PATRON IS FLAGGING AFTER HAVING LOST THE GULF WAR. [REDACTED] b3

2. INTERNATIONAL: OVERDUE PAYMENTS TO IMF GROWING

ARREARS TO THE IMF OF A NUMBER OF DEVELOPING COUNTRIES CONTINUE TO MOUNT, LARGELY BECAUSE THEIR GOVERNMENTS ARE UNABLE TO CONTROL SPENDING AND INCREASE EXPORTS. IN THE FIRST FIVE MONTHS OF THIS YEAR, OVERDUE PAYMENTS TO THE FUND JUMPED 20 PERCENT TO A RECORD \$2.7 BILLION. OF THIS TOTAL, ABOUT HALF, \$1.5 BILLION, HAS BEEN DUE FOR MORE THAN A YEAR DESPITE IMF EFFORTS TO HELP THE COUNTRIES INVOLVED ESTABLISH CORRECTIVE ECONOMIC POLICIES AND, IN SOME CASES, OBTAIN FUNDING FROM ALTERNATIVE SOURCES TO APPLY TOWARD CLEARING UP THEIR IMF ACCOUNTS. [REDACTED] b3

b3 [REDACTED] ARREARS TO THE IMF PROBABLY WILL RISE EVEN FURTHER AS THIRD WORLD DEBTORS KEEP DRAGGING THEIR FEET ABOUT IMPLEMENTING AND MAINTAINING THE REFORMS NECESSARY TO STABILIZE THEIR ECONOMIES. ESCALATING ARREARS WILL PROBABLY LEAD THE FUND TO FURTHER INCREASE THE RATES IT CHARGES ON IMF CREDITS AND MIGHT RESTRICT THE POOL OF FUNDS AVAILABLE FOR FUTURE LENDING. [REDACTED] b3

3. SOMALIA: MILITARY DISARRAY INCREASING

COMMAND PROBLEMS, SNARLED LOGISTICS, AND HEIGHTENED INTERCLAN FRICTION ARE HAMPERING THE SOMALI MILITARY'S EFFORTS TO REGAIN CONTROL OF KEY NORTHERN TOWNS AND GARRISONS. SEVERAL GROUND SUPPORT AIRCRAFT WERE GROUNDED DURING MOST OF LAST MONTH BECAUSE OF MAINTENANCE PROBLEMS AND JET FUEL SHORTAGES. [REDACTED] b3

b3 [REDACTED] PRESIDENT SIAD IS INTENT ON DEFEATING THE REBELS, BUT INCONCLUSIVE BATTLES AND HIGH CASUALTIES ARE DEMORALIZING GOVERNMENT

~~SECRET~~

OUTGOING MESSAGE

OUTGOING MESSAGE

OUTGOING MESSAGE

~~SECRET~~

PAGE 003
TOT: 020357Z AUG 88

TROOPS. COMBAT OPERATIONS ARE STRAINING GOVERNMENT REPAIR AND SUPPLY NETWORKS.

4. IN BRIEF

MIDDLE EAST

X--QATAR'S OPENING OF RELATIONS WITH USSR YESTERDAY FOLLOWS
FORMALIZATION OF TIES TO CHINA LAST MONTH . . . REFLECTS BROADENED
FOREIGN POLICY GOALS. IRRITATION WITH US DEMAND FOR RETURN OF
STINGER MISSILES

SOUTH ASIA

OUTGOING
MESSAGE

OUTGOING
MESSAGE

OUTGOING
MESSAGE

~~SECRET~~

1 3 2 7